



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 7, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Low Incidence Disabilities-Teacher Preparation Initiative (LID-TPI)

Across the nation, colleges and universities are closing down their Educator Preparation Programs for teachers of students with low incidence disabilities. These programs are more specialized and costly and, therefore, less attractive to colleges and universities.

Historically, Michigan had two Deaf Education Educator Preparation Programs: one at Michigan State University (MSU) and the other at Eastern Michigan University (EMU). MSU closed its program in 2012. EMU announced it will no longer accept students into its Deaf Education Program as of January 2013. These closures leave Michigan with no Teacher Preparation Program in deaf or hard of hearing.

In addition, Michigan has only one teacher preparation program for students with visual impairments at EMU. Western Michigan University offers a blindness and low-vision studies program, but it is not an approved teacher preparation program.

As a result of these closures and concern for future closures of programs for low incidence disabilities, the State Board of Education asked staff to explore options to ensure that Michigan has an ample supply of teachers trained to work with students with low incidence disabilities.

With the assistance of a group of stakeholders, the Office of Special Education (OSE) created the Michigan Consortium for Teacher Endorsement for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Visual Impairment. This consortium includes in-state and out-of-state educator preparation institutions that allow certificated teachers to obtain an additional Michigan teaching endorsement in either deaf/hard of hearing or visual impairment. OSE staff will present an overview of the Michigan Consortium for Teacher Endorsement for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Visual Impairment. (Attachment)

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The Michigan Consortium for Teacher Endorsement For Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Visual Impairment

The purpose of this initiative is to create a consortium of several out-of-state institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs, schools and agencies for the Blind, and Michigan Educator Preparation Institutions (EPIs) to deliver an on-line endorsement program that will permit certified teachers to obtain an additional Michigan teaching endorsement in either deaf/hard of hearing or visual impairments.

Classes will be offered through a combination of on-line, web conferencing, video conferencing, and face-to-face meetings. Through web and video conferencing, students are able to experience real-time, multipoint, interactive instruction among several university and program options. Some courses will require face-to-face meetings which will be scheduled during the summer or weekends. Select courses will be offered in the evenings to meet the scheduling needs of students.

Endorsement for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Program Course Offerings:

Introduction to Deaf Education
Audiology & Instructional Auditory Management
Language Instruction
Literacy Assessment & Intervention
Structure of English & American Sign Language
Cognition, Instruction and Learning
Consultation & Collaboration
Preschool Issues
Practicum

EPIs Out-of-State

Kent State University
Minot State University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Tennessee
University of Nebraska-Omaha
Utah State University
Texas Woman's University

EPIs In-State

Aquinas College (Host)
Saginaw Valley State University

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Endorsement for Visual Impairment

Program Course Offerings:

Introduction to Visual Impairment
Braille Code and Communication I
Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye
Assistive Technology for Visual Impairment
Instructional Strategies and Assessment for Students with Visual Impairment
Braille Code and Communication II
Methods of Teaching Students with Visual Impairment
Principles of Orientation & Mobility for Students with Visual Impairment
Implications of Low Vision
Practicum

EPIs Out-of-State

University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Arizona
University of Kentucky

EPIs In-State

Western Michigan University (Host)
Eastern Michigan University

Michigan's host universities agree to the following:

- Review student application materials and determine admission into the program.
- Provide a list of students that have been accepted for enrollment in the program to other Member Institutions.
- Act as Michigan liaison for participating Member Institutions in the program.
- Report to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education (OSE), on a monthly basis on the program status.
- Transfer of admission materials to appropriate offices at Member Institutions as needed.
- Provide a Plan of Study to students with the matrix of course offerings.
- Provide advising to students for registration, course availability, required prerequisites, and practicum placement.
- Transfer of electronic registration information to appropriate offices at Member Institutions as needed.
- Monitor the status of student's progress in the program.
- Determine if a course outside of the consortium will be accepted as a transfer course if requested by a student.
- Facilitate practicum placements for students.
- Provide updated information and materials as needed for website.
- Perform final audit of documents required for submission to MDE-OSE.
- Advise students that upon completion of all requirements of the program; the student will submit his/her endorsement packet directly to the Michigan Department of Education for consideration of endorsement.

Out-of-State Universities agree to the following:

- Collaboratively offer courses that provide coursework in the endorsement program, with the majority of the program being offered in an on-line format. The plan of study shall be available and used by the Consortium for the duration of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- Prepare and deliver a schedule of courses that will be available through a combination of web conferencing, video conferencing, and on-line learning systems, with opportunities to take the remaining course offerings for the program with on campus experiences that go beyond the internship component.
- Allow and encourage students in the program to select courses from multiple Member Institutions.
- The Member Institutions agree that students shall be subject to the policies and procedures of each institution, including, but not limited to, those concerning academic misconduct and other discipline issues.
- The Member Institutions agree that each institution shall own whatever courses it develops, including any and all intellectual property associated. Member Institutions shall not offer courses developed by another member institution or use any intellectual property associated therewith, except as specifically provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding or as otherwise authorized in writing by that Member Institution.

Each Member Institution shall independently be responsible for:

- Offering courses approved through the consortium.
- Offering courses at the tuition rate as set by each Member Institution.
- Setting minimum and maximum enrollment limits.
- Offering a course section, making decisions regarding student's issues, such as grading, ethical behavior, etc. that are customarily covered by the institution's handbooks or rules.
- Communicating any decision regarding course cancellation.
- Each Member Institution shall communicate with collaborating members to determine whether any cancellation will have an impact upon the pool of students that are participating in the program.

The Office of Special Education will:

- Complete a final audit of:
 - Application packet
 - Student transcripts
 - Completion of the Plan of Study
 - Successful Practicum completion

Provide the Office of Professional Preparation Services the audited materials

The Office of Professional Preparation Services will:

- Check the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS)
- Check that MTTC test was complete
- Check that fee has been paid through MOECS
- Add the endorsement to the teaching certificate